

From: [Peel, Jackson](#)
To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: House Democratic Caucus Responds: Budget Buoyed by Federal Funds Signed Into Law
Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 1:03:33 PM

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**House Democratic Caucus Responds
Budget Buoyed by Federal Funds Signed Into Law**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Florida’s \$100 billion budget was signed into law by **Governor Ron DeSantis**. Following the devastating COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout, Florida’s budget outlook seemed grim, but thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act, billions of dollars of federal funds flowed into State and local budgets.

Members of House Democratic Caucus issued the following statements:

Co-Leader Bobby DuBose (D- Fort Lauderdale) said, “You wouldn’t know it from the Governor’s press conference, but Florida’s budget was bolstered by billions of dollars from the American Rescue Plan passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden. That money, and the additional billions sent to local communities, avoided a potential budget crisis and will help jump start Florida’s recovery. It’s unfortunate that more of those dollars won’t go directly into the pockets of Floridians to aid our state’s recovery.

Co-Leader Evan Jenne (D- Hollywood) stated, “At around \$100 billion, this is the largest budget in Florida’s history, but it would not be possible without the American Rescue Plan sending billions to state and local coffers. Unfortunately, given the money available to us, this budget doesn’t go far enough to directly help our neighbors in crisis. We are still facing serious economic, housing, health care, and environmental problems across the state.”

Leader-Designate Ramon Alexander (D- Tallahassee) said, “I am very grateful for the leadership of President Joe Biden and the United States Congress in delivering on their promise to help states like Florida survive what could have been a devastating budget shortfall. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, we’re able to provide educators and first responders with \$1,000 bonus checks to show our appreciation for their hard work. Unfortunately, Floridians need and deserve more direct aid than they’ll get despite the large price tag of this budget.”

Representative Fentrice Driskell (D- Tampa) added, “This is one of the best budgets Florida has seen in years, but it would not have been possible without President Biden and Congressional Democrats. I know it pains Governor DeSantis to admit it, but President

Biden saved the day by providing billions of dollars from the American Rescue Plan to keep Florida's economy afloat and allow us to do things like provide teacher bonuses. It's unfortunate that the truth of the matter gets lost in the Florida Republicans' partisan narrative, and even sadder that even with this extra cash, the budget doesn't go as far as it should in directly helping the people of Florida who are still struggling to recover from the economic crisis."

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